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ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN POLAND, USSR, AND PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES

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Economic cooperation among the countries of the camp of peace was initiated by the USSR in 1945 and includes the USSR, the People's Republic of China, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Albania. It already has its traditions and noteworthy achievements. The cooperating states, acting in conformity with the directives of CEMA (Council for Economic Mutual Assistance), have had great success in building up their national economies with mutual and disinterested help. The highest organs of authority in all the cooperating countries now consider this cooperation as one of the most important political and economic factors in building socialism and raising the standard of living.

The all-round form of this cooperation is a guarantee of the necessary and proper utilization of each other's achievements. This is particularly important because of the unequal economic levels of the participants. The diversity of this cooperation permits the participants to overcome the difficulties of expansion and the discriminatory policies of capitalistic states.

Economic cooperation extends into every field of the national economy, including science, technology, and commerce. The appearance of technical, construction, and project documentation sets from other countries is an everyday occurrence in the work of Polish industrial institutes and plants. An everyday occurrence also is the acquiring of practical experience abroad by Polish experts. Consultations and expert advice are given by foreign experts for the solution of pressing problems of production or organization. All these forms of cooperation belong, in principle, to the scientific and technical part of this economic cooperation. Economic cooperation, however, embraces a much wider field and is manifested in many forms, the most important of which are the following: the delivery of complete investment installations, mutual utilization of temporarily available production capacities, and production cooperation.

Economic cooperation, conducted along these principles and with the use of so many diversified forms of cooperation, saves the participating countries great financial expenditures and loss of time in tedious scientific research, aids in the full utilization of the country's resources, and permits the concentration of more forces and funds for the accomplishment of the most pressing tasks. It makes it possible to accelerate economic development and to gain economic independence from capitalist countries. Its disinterest, directness, and inexpensiveness make it an effective tool in hastening the building of socialism in the participating countries.

Poland, as a member of CEMA, has been cooperating economically with the USSR and the People's Democracies since 1945. This cooperation was, at first, limited to the delivery of complete industrial plants and technical equipment, and to scientific cooperation. A description of the delivery of complete industrial plants by the USSR to Poland is given by P. Szafran in an article entitled, "On Soviet Economic Aid to Poland," in the July 1954 issue of Gospodarka Planowa. Discussion of this type of economic cooperation, therefore, will be limited here to its application to the other People's Democracies.

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The period covering Poland's Three-Year Plan and the first 3 years of the Six-Year Plan was characterized by Poland's great need for complete industrial plants and equipment accompanied by their technical documentation sets.

The tasks which faced Poland during this period, those of initiating new production, constant and systematic lowering of real costs, introducing limited mechanization, improving work organization, and raising quality of production, reflected the great need for scientific and technical cooperation. Poland examined several proposals for obtaining the technological and construction documentation sets, the organizational plans, and the experiences of leading foreign industries. This form of scientific and technical cooperation, realized by sending Polish experts abroad and by receiving expert advice of foreign experts on the spot in Poland, brought good results.

With increasing progress and changes of emphasis in the economy, the cooperation among the participating countries became closer; that is, it tied together related industries of the cooperating countries. This permitted a more effective operational contact and a fuller utilization of the mutual economic potential.

The following table shows the development of scientific and technical cooperation from 1951 to 1953 among Poland, the USSR, and the other People's Democracies:

Year	No of Documentation Sets Received by Poland	No of Documentation Sets Delivered by Poland	No of Polish Experts Sent Abroad for Practical Experience	No of Foreign Experts in Poland for Practical Experience
1951	360	115	200	170
1952	540	250	650	300
1953	410	300	950	300
Total	1,310	665	1,800	770

Poland filled her needs for documentation sets and training of her experts through cooperation primarily with the USSR, the GDR, and Czechoslovakia. The exchange of experience with Hungary remained at about the same level during this period. Poland was for the most part the supplier for the other participating countries. The large number of Polish experts sent to foreign countries can be explained by the fact that they were studying industries that were not known in prewar Poland. Many of the experts also had to supplement their knowledge for the more rapid utilization of the documentation sets already received, and had to master technological processes for the newly supplied and newly operating plants in Poland.

The help of the USSR to Poland during this period was especially noticeable in the mining, electric power, chemical, engineering, and metallurgical industries.

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Past and present Soviet help given to Poland in the scientific and technical field is of the highest type, capable of being put to immediate use in the science and industry of Poland. This applies equally to problems of production and of organization. The use of Soviet documentation sets and the advice of Soviet experts in Poland have an economic effect worth millions of zloty.

Of the more than 300 technical documentation sets given to Poland by the USSR from 1951 to 1953, 100 have been put to full use. Since a great many of these documentation sets were for large industrial plants which demand a long time for full implementation, such as a heat and electric power plant and a plant for producing vitamin C, the degree of utilization has been considerable, especially since the remaining 200 include many sets which are still in the process of adaptation. The same high degree of utilization applies to the production of new machines and equipment such as metallurgical traveling cranes, new types of agricultural machines and drilling equipment, and machine tools.

Besides the great contributions of Soviet experts in Poland, a great contribution to the development of Polish industry has been the experience gained by Polish experts who worked in the USSR. From 1951 to 1953, about 300 experts gained practical experience by working in the USSR, not counting those sent to the USSR in connection with economic agreements for the delivery of complete industrial plants. As a result of the experience gained by these experts, many new production processes were put into operation, and existing production techniques were more proficiently employed.

Poland, on her part, trained many Soviet specialists in various fields of industry, and shared with the USSR with the achievements of Polish science. One example is the work of Professor Cebertowicz on hardening earth for building foundations. Poland's contributions to the USSR are constantly increasing.

Cooperation with the GDR has been primarily in the chemical and engineering industries. In the chemical industry especially, GDR cooperation has extended to fundamentally important industrial establishments, for which Poland received complete equipment and documentation sets, the chemical combine at Kedzierzyn, for example. New chemical production plants were put into operation as a result of the expert aid of GDR engineers and scientists. Cooperation in the engineering industry was given primarily to the industries producing precision instruments, textile machines, motor vehicles, lifting equipment, construction machinery, and railroad rolling stock. This cooperation included not only the delivery of installations and equipment, but also scientific and technical cooperation. Of importance also is the GDR's help in communications equipment.

The close cooperation of the Polish and Czechoslovak metallurgical industries proved especially useful to Poland in obtaining very valuable practical experience in this basic industry. Two coking batteries were constructed in Poland by Czechoslovak experts, and a great number of technical documentation sets on the technology of production, rolling, and forging of steel were received by Poland from Czechoslovakia.

The similarity of systems in the Polish and Czechoslovak metallurgical industries permitted a close association and a great degree of cooperation, which resulted in important mutual benefits, such as the exchange of pig iron for steel production, the utilization of available mutual production potentials for metal rolling. Many bottlenecks were eliminated in the plants of both countries.

The Polish power industry still receives high-quality turbogenerator aggregates and boilers from Czechoslovakia. Active cooperation in this field also includes bilateral delivery of power and the exchange of production and exploitation experiences.

The construction-materials industry, faced with the problem of increasing production, was able to meet most of the country's expanded needs after the delivery by Czechoslovakia of complete equipment for the two cement works of Odra and Wiek II.

A classic example of Czechoslovak scientific and technical cooperation in the production of pharmaceuticals is the manufacture of penicillin, and many other good-quality drugs were put on the Polish market faster, with the aid of Czechoslovak experience and technical documentation sets.

Over a 3-year period, 1,240 Polish experts went to the GDR and Czechoslovakia for practical experience, and now the number is tending to increase.

This scientific and technical cooperation, however, has not been one-sided. For 2 years, 250 Czechoslovak experts worked in Polish industrial plants to gain experience, and 130 technical documentation sets were sent by Poland to Czechoslovakia during 1952 and 1953.

Poland helped to meet GDR and Czechoslovak needs in mining and construction by giving these countries the benefit of its great experience in these fields, and by supplying Czechoslovakia, in particular, with equipment, documentation sets for various installations, and mining and drilling machinery.

Polish cooperation with Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria extends to those industries in which each at the three excels: Hungary, in the railroad-rolling-stock industry, from which Poland has received railroad motor cars, and the electrotechnical and textile industries; Rumania, in the oil-extraction and oil-processing industries; and Bulgaria, in agriculture and the food-processing industry, for which Poland is supplying completely equipped cold-storage plants.

Cooperation with North Korea, which was started in 1954, and with Albania is now one-sided, and consists mainly in sending Polish experts for consultations and in training North Korean and Albanian workers in Polish industrial plants. In addition, Poland is supplying North Korea with much industrial equipment and is building industrial plants, as for example, plants in the railroad field.

Up to now, cooperation with China has been limited to the supply of equipment and complete industrial plants, such as the two sugar refineries built by Poland in China, but it is entering a new phase. The recently signed agreement on cooperation and the first protocol of the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Commission create a base for rapid and all-round development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

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A few examples of successes in some specific branches of the Polish economy will show the effect of scientific and technical cooperation with the USSR and the People's Democracies. Polish metallurgy, with Soviet documentation sets on the production technology of bimetallic strips and Czechoslovak documentation sets on the production of electrodes, has been able to eliminate the importation of these items and thus effect great savings in foreign trade. By using igielit [plastic] for the manufacture of tubes for cosmetics, as a result of experience and documentation sets obtained from the GDR, Polish industry has saved about 90 tons of scarce nonferrous metals over a 6-month period. Soviet documentation sets for a factory producing vitamin C have freed Poland from having to import this preparation and has hastened and simplified the work connected with starting such a difficult production process. The use of Hungarian documentation sets for the granulation of superphosphates has resulted in higher-quality fertilizers and savings in time and costs of plant construction. Soviet construction and technological documentation sets used in the Polish engineering industry resulted in the production of eight new types of agricultural machines, and in the planned production of seven more new types in the near future.

Technical documentation sets for several machine tools and electric motors provided an effective aid to the engineering industry, resulting in important savings of many tons of scarce copper. Work productivity in the production of resistors has increased by 300 percent by the use of GDR documentation sets. About 30 million zloty annually has been saved in shoe factories by conserving leather through the use of Czechoslovak technical documentation sets.

The basic and most important results of economic cooperation are new branches of industry, economic independence from capitalistic countries, savings in materials and costs, better work organization and improvement in work conditions. The near future undoubtedly will bring further expansion of economic cooperation.

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